Announcement: Maryland Attains National Public Health Accreditation

Advancing public health performance

This week, the Maryland Department of Health and Mental Hygiene (DHMH) announced that it has achieved national accreditation through the Public Health Accreditation Board (PHAB). The national accreditation program is jointly supported by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation (RWJF). The program works to improve and protect the health of the public by advancing and transforming the quality and performance of health departments at all levels. Maryland's State Department of Health and Mental Hygiene joins 26 other national state and territorial health departments in achieving accreditation since PHAB launched in 2011. A health department must undergo a rigorous, multi-faceted, peer-reviewed assessment process to receive accreditation. This includes evaluation across 12 core domains that serve as benchmark standards to improve health services and business operations. Examples of this includes emergency response activation protocols to infectious disease and environmental health incidents, as well as accessibility to culturally and linguistically appropriate health services.

PHAB provides accreditation to local health departments in addition to state and territorial departments. Maryland has seven local health departments accredited through PHAB. These include Allegany, Cecil, Frederick, Garrett, Harford, Wicomico, and Worcester county health departments. There are 190 local health departments accredited through PHAB across the nation.

For more information about DHMH's PHAB accreditation and quality improvement efforts, please visit the Office of Population Health Improvement (OPHI) programs here.

Webinar: Home Visiting Services Application Process

Wednesday, June 21, 2017
The Maryland DHMH Health Choice Renewal program will host a webinar titled, "Home Visiting Services Pilot Application Process and Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)." This webinar will discuss the application process for the Maryland §1115 HealthChoice Waiver initiative, which is known as "Community Health Pilot Program for Evidence-Based Home Visiting Services for High-Risk Pregnant Women and Children up to Age 2 (HVS)." Presenters will provide an in-depth guide to the recently released HVS pilot application and FAQs.

For webinar information, click here. For more information about managed care in Maryland, visit the DHMH HealthChoice webpage here.

Webinar: 2017 Predictive Modeling Web Summit

Friday, June 23, 2017
The MCOL, a health business corporation, will hold its "9th Annual Predictive Modeling Web Summit." Predictive analytics is the use of data, statistical algorithms, and machine learning techniques to identify the likelihood of future outcomes based on historical data. This is essential for health care organizations in the environment of health care transformation and emphasis on value based care. This webinar will discuss approaches to position health care organizations for effective predictive analysis. Two case studies of cancer care will be examined with respect to risk adjustment. Participants of this webinar will learn about:

- Risk adjustment techniques for improving value-based payments;
- Consumer lifestyle and behavioral analytics, such as leveraging supplemental data for risk intervention; and,
- Best practices for mining big data and legal, regulatory, and ethical considerations.

For webinar information, click here. For more information on health care transformation in Maryland, visit the DHMH OPHI webpage here.

Webinar Series: Risk Communications and Management for Harmful Algal Blooms

Tuesday, June 27, 2017
The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) will host a webinar series titled, "Harmful Algal Blooms: Treatment, Risk Communications Toolbox, and Management Plans." The webinars will discuss challenges and treatment solutions for small drinking water and wastewater systems. Algae are a natural and critical part of Chesapeake and coastal bay ecosystems. They become harmful if they occur in an unnaturally high abundance or if they produce a toxin. The first presenter will discuss multiple EPA tools for preparing for a bloom and mitigating the effects, including monitoring, treatment, and communication activities. The second presenter will provide an overview of drinking water treatment options for algal blooms and their toxins.

Continuing education credits will be available. For webinar information, click here. For more information about Maryland's public health prevention and health promotion programs in environmental health, visit the DHMH Environmental Health Bureau webpage here.

Webinar: Substance Use Disorder Treatment Workforce Skills

Wednesday, June 28, 2017
The Centers for Medicaid and Medicare Services's (CMS) Medicaid Innovation Accelerator Program will host a webinar titled, "Strategies for Enhancing Substance Use Disorder Treatment Workforce Skills." Presenters will review lessons learned from working with states on substance use disorder (SUD) delivery system reform. State and provider partners will discuss creating opportunities for providers to enhance their competency. This includes using patient assessment tools in treatment planning as well as coordinating care for patients receiving Medication Assisted Treatment (MAT). State government staff and providers will discuss how:
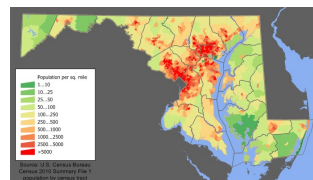
- California increased provider competence using the American Society of Addiction Medicine patient needs assessment through county-directed training efforts;
- Missouri established specific training requirements and educational resources for counselors working with MAT clients to enhance care quality and support client treatment needs; and,
- Rhode Island created two statewide initiatives that expanded SUD treatment access and provider competence by establishing new care coordination standards for working with clients receiving MAT.

For webinar information, click here. For more information about substance use prevention and treatment programs in Maryland, visit the DHMH Behavioral Health Administration programs here.

Webinar: Population Health Curriculum

Thursday, June 29, 2017
The Health Services and Resources Administration (HRSA) will sponsor a webinar titled, "Pop Health Curriculum." This webinar will teach clinicians, administrators, and learners how to incorporate population health tools and concepts into practices. Presenters will discuss population health, geospatial concepts, exploring service areas, and mapping clinical data and community resources. Participants of this webinar will learn to:

- Describe how social determinants affect health;
- Demonstrate how to use online population health tools; and,
- Describe how those tools can be used to improve the delivery of care.

For webinar information, click here. For more information about population health in Maryland, visit the DHMH OPHI programs here.

Event: Rural Quality and Clinical Conference

Wednesday - Friday, July 12 - 14, 2017
The National Rural Health Association (NRHA) will host the "Rural Quality and Clinical Conference." This conference will examine multiple issues surrounding quality and clinical care

in rural areas, including payment programs, diseases, telemedicine, and population health management. Two thematic tracks will be available: one on rural hospital and clinical quality and another on innovation. Encouraged to attend are quality and performance improvement coordinators and organizations, rural clinicians and staff, as well as those practicing on the front lines of rural health care.

For more information, click here. For more information about improving access to health care in rural Maryland, visit the DHMH OPHI State Office of Rural Health program here.

Stay Connected

Visit the SHIP website

Join our Mailing List